

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus comprising:  
a portable bundle including:
  - 5 an inflatable bladder, wherein the inflatable bladder has a substantially toroid geometry when inflated, and the inflatable bladder is in a storage position,
  - a gas canister in communication with the inflatable bladder, and
  - an opening mechanism coupled to the gas canister;a tether coupled to the inflatable bladder, wherein at least a portion of the tether includes  
10 a fastening clasp; and  
a manual trigger coupled to the opening mechanism, wherein the manual trigger is operable to initiate inflation of the inflatable bladder.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the portable bundle includes a pouch and at least the  
15 inflatable bladder, the gas canister, and the opening mechanism are disposed within the pouch.
3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the pouch includes at least one seam, wherein the seam is dimensioned and configured to separate during inflation of the inflatable bladder.
- 20 4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the at least one seam is closed with hook and loop material.
5. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein straps extend from the pouch for removably coupling the portable bundle to a vehicle or person.
- 25 6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the straps include fasteners.
7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the fasteners include hook and loop material.
- 30 8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the inflatable bladder defines an orifice extending through the inflatable bladder.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein a web is removably coupled to the inflatable bladder and extends across at least a portion of the orifice.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the web is removably coupled to the inflatable bladder with hook and loop material.

11. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the fastening clasp is a carabiner.

12. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the manual trigger is a rip cord.

13. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the opening mechanism includes a moveable pin substantially adjacent to the gas canister, and the moveable pin is operable to puncture the gas canister.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the manual trigger is coupled to the moveable pin by a moveable arm, and the moveable arm is coupled at one end to the manual trigger and engaged against the moveable pin at another end.

15. An apparatus comprising:

a portable bundle including:

an inflatable bladder, wherein the inflatable bladder has a substantially toroid geometry when inflated, and the inflatable bladder is in a storage position,

a gas canister in communication with the inflatable bladder,

a moveable pin substantially adjacent to the gas canister, wherein the moveable pin is operable to puncture the gas canister, and

an enclosure for bundling at least the inflatable bladder, the gas canister, and the moveable pin;

a tether coupled to the inflatable bladder, wherein at least a portion of the tether includes a fastening clasp;

a manual trigger coupled to the moveable pin, wherein the manual trigger is operable to initiate inflation of the inflatable bladder.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the enclosure includes a pouch.

17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the pouch includes at least one seam, wherein the seam is dimensioned and configured to separate during inflation of the inflatable bladder.

18. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the enclosure is pliable.

19. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein straps extend from the enclosure for removably coupling the portable bundle to a vehicle or person.

20. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the straps include fasteners.

21. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the fasteners include hook and loop material.

22. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the fastening clasp is a carabiner.

23. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the manual trigger is a rip cord.

24. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the manual trigger is coupled to the moveable pin by a moveable arm, and the moveable arm is coupled at one end to the manual trigger and engaged against the moveable pin at another end.

25. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the inflatable bladder defines an orifice extending through the inflatable bladder.

26. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein a web is removably coupled to the inflatable bladder and extends across at least a portion of the orifice.

27. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the web is removably coupled to the inflatable bladder with hook and loop material.

28. A method comprising:

5 coupling a portable bundle to a vehicle or person, wherein the portable bundle includes an inflatable bladder and an enclosure for containing the inflatable bladder when in a storage position;

operating a manual trigger to inflate the inflatable bladder;

inflating the inflatable bladder into a substantially toroid geometry; and

10 splitting the enclosure with the inflatable bladder.

29. The method of claim 28, further comprising suspending the vehicle within a liquid with the inflatable bladder.

15 30. The method of claim 28, further comprising floating at least a portion of the inflatable bladder on a liquid.

31. The method of claim 28, further comprising suspending the vehicle within a slide of material.

20 32. The method of claim 31, wherein suspending the vehicle includes preventing cartwheeling of the vehicle.

33. The method of claim 31, wherein suspending the vehicle includes dragging the inflatable bladder with moving material disposed within an orifice of the inflatable bladder.

34. The method of claim 28, further comprising suspending the person within a slide of material.

30 35. The method of claim 34, wherein suspending the person includes dragging the inflatable bladder with moving material disposed within an orifice of the inflatable bladder.

36. The method of claim 28, wherein inflating the inflatable bladder includes puncturing a gas canister in communication with the inflatable bladder.

5 37. The method of claim 36, wherein operating a manual trigger to inflate the inflatable bladder includes pulling a rip cord to puncture the gas canister.

38. The method of claim 28, wherein splitting the enclosure with the inflatable bladder includes splitting at least one seam.

10

39. The method of claim 28, further comprising driving the vehicle out on to ice.

40. The method of claim 28, further comprising driving the vehicle into an avalanche zone.

15

41. A method comprising:  
providing an inflatable bladder having a substantially toroid geometry;  
coupling a tether to the inflatable bladder;  
coupling a gas canister to the inflatable bladder;  
coupling an opening mechanism to the gas canister;  
20 coupling a manual trigger to the opening mechanism; and  
enclosing the inflatable bladder in an enclosure to form a portable bundle.

20

42. The method of claim 41, further comprising coupling straps to the enclosure for coupling the portable bundle to a person or vehicle.

25

43. The method of claim 41, wherein coupling the manual trigger to the opening mechanism includes coupling a rip cord to the opening mechanism.

30

44. The method of claim 43, further comprising removably coupling at least a portion of the rip cord to the enclosure.

45. The method of claim 44, wherein removably coupling at least the portion of the rip cord to the enclosure includes coupling a pull ring to the enclosure with hook and loop material.

46. The method of claim 41, further comprising coupling a carabiner to the tether.

47. The method of claim 41, wherein enclosing the inflatable bladder in the enclosure to form a portable bundle includes fastening a seam together to substantially enclose the inflatable bladder.

48. The method of claim 47, wherein fastening the seam together includes fastening hook and loop material together.

49. The method of claim 41, wherein enclosing the inflatable bladder in the enclosure to form the portable bundle includes folding the inflatable bladder into a storage position.

50. The method of claim 41, wherein coupling the opening mechanism to the gas canister includes disposing a pin substantially adjacent to the gas canister.

51. The method of claim 50, wherein coupling the manual trigger to the opening mechanism includes coupling the manual trigger to a moveable arm and the arm is engaged against the pin.

52. The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the inflatable bladder having a substantially toroid geometry includes an orifice extending through the inflatable bladder.

53. The apparatus of claim 52, further comprising removably coupling a web across at least a portion of the orifice.

54. The apparatus of claim 53, wherein removably coupling a web across at least a portion of the orifice includes removably coupling the web to the inflatable bladder with hook and loop material.